

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/788,402

Examiner

Jonathan Ouellette

Applicant(s)

BRONDRUP, RAYNER

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/22/2006 and 5/7/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 32-41.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application on 5/7/2007, after appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Therefore, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. The request, however, lacks the submission required by 37 CFR 1.114. Since the proceedings as to the rejected claims are considered terminated, the application will be passed to issue on allowed claim 32-41. Claims 1-31 have been canceled. See MPEP 1215.01.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 1-31 have been cancelled, and Claims 32-41 have been added; therefore, Claims 32-41 are currently pending in application 09/788,402.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The rejection of Claims 21-25 and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLorme et al. (US 5,948,040) in view of Pinzon (US 6,161,005), and further in view of Worcester (Worcester, Barbara A, "Online locks may set trend toward real-time security," Hotel & Motel Management, v213n3, pp: 53-54, February 16, 1998), is withdrawn due to Applicant's arguments and amendments.

4. The rejection of Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLorme in view of Pinzon, in view of Worcester, and further in view of Martin et al. (US 5,979, 754), is withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 32-41 are allowed.**

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

7. As per **independent Claim 32 and 37**, the prior art does not teach or suggest wherein the reservation/IT system in response to receiving the copy of the electronic key is arranged to communicate an invalidation command in respect of information corresponding to the electronic key if a reservation period associated with the electronic key has expired.

8. **DeLorme et al. (US 5,948,040)** discloses a method for providing automatic wireless hotel facility reservation and-or check-in and room access control in a system comprising a communication network interconnecting a telecommunication system adapted to communicate wirelessly with a wireless telecommunication device of a wireless terminal of a user and a computerized reservation/IT system associated with a facility (Abstract, Fig 4, Fig. 9B, C8 L33-65, C16 L32-59, C79 L63-67, C80 L1-38).

9. Furthermore, DeLorme discloses communicating electronic output to a wireless device, to include the method comprising: automatically generating electronic output upon receiving from the wireless terminal a hotel reservation and/or check-in request, automatically and wirelessly communicating a copy of the electronic output from the computerized reservation/IT system to the wireless terminal that originated the reservation and/or check-in request (C12 L36-45); however, DeLorme fails to expressly disclose wherein said computerized reservation/IT

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system includes a means for electronic communication with a remotely operable door lock of the facility, said remotely operable door lock including a lock device and a first wireless device operationally associated with the lock device and adapted to communicate wirelessly with a second wireless device of the wireless terminal, said wireless terminal including the wireless telecommunication means arranged in communication with the second wireless communication device; the method comprising: automatically generating an electronic key, automatically and wirelessly communicating a copy of the electronic key from the IT system to the wireless terminal that originated the reservation and/or check-in request, and automatically and wirelessly obtaining by the remotely operable door lock, without the user of the wireless terminal having to press a button, a copy of the electronic key from the wireless terminal if the second wireless device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range, and automatically actuating by the remotely operable door lock the lock device to enable the user to access the hotel room if the copy of the electronic key obtained from the wireless terminal corresponds to the information received from the IT system.

10. **Pinzon (US 6,161,005)** teaches an IT system, including a means for electronic communication with a remotely operable door lock of the facility (hotel: C2 L61-65), said remotely operable door lock including a lock device and a first wireless device operationally associated with the lock device and adapted to communicate wirelessly with a second wireless device of the wireless terminal (Abstract, Figs.1-4, C2 L38-65), said wireless terminal including the wireless telecommunication means arranged in communication with the second wireless communication device; the method comprising: automatically generating in the computerized IT system an electronic key, automatically and wirelessly communicating a copy of the electronic

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key from the computerized IT system to the wireless terminal (web enabled cell-phone) that originated the request, and automatically and wirelessly obtaining the remotely operable door lock, without the user of the wireless terminal having to press a button (preset activation within range: C3 L35-46, proximity: C5 L19-22), a copy of the electronic key from the wireless terminal if the second wireless device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range, and automatically actuating by the remotely operable door lock the lock device to enable the user to access the hotel room (C2 L61-65) if the copy of the electronic key obtained from the wireless terminal corresponds to the information received from the computerized IT system (C2 L38-65, C3 L35-46).

11. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein said computerized reservation/IT system includes a means for electronic communication with a remotely operable door lock of the facility, said remotely operable door lock including a lock device and a first wireless device operationally associated with the lock device and adapted to communicate wirelessly with a second wireless device of the wireless terminal, said wireless terminal including the wireless telecommunication means arranged in communication with the second wireless communication device; the method comprising: automatically generating an electronic key, automatically and wirelessly communicating a copy of the electronic key from the IT system to the wireless terminal that originated the request, and automatically and wirelessly obtaining the remotely operable door lock, without the user of the wireless terminal having to press a button, a copy of the electronic key from the wireless terminal if the second wireless device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range, and automatically actuating by the remotely operable door lock the lock

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device if the copy of the electronic key obtained from the wireless terminal corresponds to the information received from the IT system, as disclosed by Pinzon in the system disclosed by DeLorme, for the advantage of providing a system (method) for providing automatic wireless hotel facility reservation and-or check-in and room access control, with the ability to increase customer service and satisfaction by offering express/direct room access after a reservation has been confirmed and paid, through the use of mobile technology (Pinzon: C3 L47-53).

12. Although, Pinzon does disclose programming a hotel room (C2 L61-65) door with coded information through a wireless or wired terminal (off-line system), DeLorme and Pinzon fail to expressly disclose automatically and electronically communicating from the IT system to the remotely operable door lock information corresponding to the electronic key (on-line system).

13. **Worcester (Worcester, Barbara A, "Online locks may set trend toward real-time security," Hotel & Motel Management, v213n3, pp: 53-54, February 16, 1998)** discloses the use of an online system (or the conversion of an off-line system to an on-line system) for hotel door security and lock management (Worcester, Barbara A, "Online locks may set trend toward real-time security," Hotel & Motel Management, v213n3, pp: 53-54, February 16, 1998).

14. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included automatically and electronically communicating from the IT system to the remotely operable (hotel room) door lock information corresponding to the electronic key (on-line system), wherein the door lock is associated with a hotel room assigned to the user in response to the reservation and/or check-in request, as disclosed by Worcester, in the system disclosed by Pinzon, in the system disclosed by DeLorme, for the advantage of providing a system (method) for providing automatic wireless hotel facility reservation and-or check-in and

room access control, with the ability to increase system effectiveness and efficiency by allowing direct (online) communication between all terminals (doors) and the central security intelligence center (Worcester, Barbara A, "Online locks may set trend toward real-time security," Hotel & Motel Management, v213n3, pp: 53-54, February 16, 1998).

15. However, the cited prior art of DeLorme, Pinzon, and/or Worcester fail to teach or suggest wherein the reservation/IT system in response to receiving the copy of the electronic key is arranged to communicate an invalidation command in respect of information corresponding to the electronic key if a reservation period associated with the electronic key has expired, separately or in combination, as described by the independent claims.

16. The remaining **dependent Claims 33-36 and 38-41** are considered allowable, as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claim.

17. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (571) 272-6807. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.

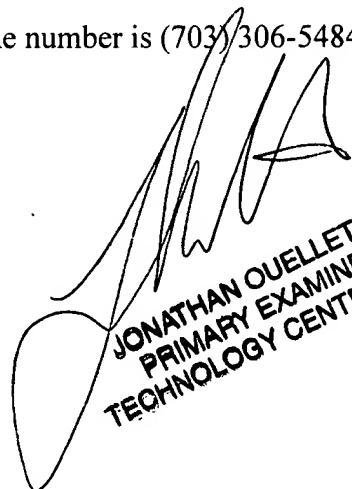
19. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (703) 872-9306 for all official communications.

20. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.

August 5, 2007



JONATHAN OUELLETTE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600